

DEVIATIONS FROM CONTRACTS.—Some of our readers will remember an action brought by Mr. Kirk, a builder, who had undertaken to erect the Union workhouse at Bromley, against the guardians of the Union, in 1846. There had been certain deviations from the plans and specification originally agreed upon under the contract, for which additional work he had charged the guardians, but they had resisted the payment of these items of charge. The plaintiff had alleged in his bill that he was, by the terms of the contract, empowered to make deviations if approved of by the clerk of the works, and this he alleged he had obtained. The Vice-Chancellor had, consequently, made an order in his favour, and from that decision the defendants appealed. The appeal was heard last week, when the Lord Chancellor was of opinion that the plaintiff had failed to make out such a case, and was not entitled to any relief, as he had not proved that he had obtained permission from those who employed him, and were to pay him, to depart from the terms of the contract, by which only the parties were to be bound. The order of the Vice-Chancellor was therefore reversed.

SELF-ACTING EFFLUVIA TRAP.—Mr. Rettie, of Richmond, has addressed to us some indignant letters in respect of the effluvia trap registered* by Messrs. Bunnett, and lately illustrated in our pages. Mr. Rettie says he patented the trap in June, 1846; and that in July, 1847, "Mr. Bunnett applied to me to be employed to make them, and to have a licence to use my patent. He got the drawings and models. Finding it to be a good thing, he registered my effluvia trap as his own, and took it to the Commissioners of Sewers, where Mr. R. L. Jones challenged him on the very subject; and I hold letters to my solicitor, stating the fact, in Mr. Bunnett's handwriting." We feel bound to give Mr. Rettie's statement, the similarity being evident, but cannot further pursue the subject, or afford space to half-a-dozen other letters which we have received: our advertising columns are open, and the law will surely afford redress for injury. Mr. Bunnett considers that he has made certain improvements in the arrangements; he does not claim the invention.

THE COMPENSATION CASE, BATTERSEA PARK.—On Friday in last week Mr. Chambers, in the Court of Queen's Bench, moved for a rule calling upon the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, and also upon the sheriff of Surrey, to shew cause why a prohibition should not issue, directing the sheriff not to record the verdict and judgment of the jury in Mr. Chabot's case. The learned counsel said some confusion must have been caused in the minds of the jury by a dispute that existed with the corporation respecting the greater portion of the land. The sheriff unfairly and unjustly omitted to ask the jury, as pointed out in the statute, the exact portion of the land on which they found their verdict. The jury had no right to inquire into the question of title, and no doubt found for the two or three roods of undisputed land, and not for the whole. Lord Denman thought the case one in which a rule should be granted, and it was granted accordingly. A claim by Mr. Paine, which was to have been tried on Tuesday last, is postponed for a time in consequence.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—At the annual general meeting of the institution, held on Tuesday evening, the 18th ult., the following gentlemen were elected to form the council for the ensuing year:—Mr. Joshua Field, President; Messrs. W. Cubitt, J. M. Rendel, J. Simpson, and R. Stephenson, M.P., Vice-Presidents; J. F. Bateman, G. P. Bidder, J. K. Brunel, J. Cubitt, J. Locke, M.P., J. Miller, W. C. Mylne, T. Sopwith, J. R. McClean, and C. May, members; and J. Clutton and T. H. Wyatt, associates of council. The report of the council continued to be very encouraging, and shewed that the progress of the society was steadily good. Telford medals were presented to Messrs. Jackson, Richardson, Murray, Glynn, and Frodsham, and to the two former gentlemen council premiums of books were added. Telford premiums of books were also awarded to Messrs. Elliott, Heppel, Shears, and Masters, for their communications made during the past session.

* Not patented, as we stated in accordance with the information forwarded to us.

COMPETITIONS.—A plan is wanted for a county lunatic asylum for Wiltshire, to accommodate 250 patients, and capable of extension. No premium is announced.—Plans are also wanted for new gas-works for Belfast: premiums—first, 50*l.*; second, 25*l.*; third, at discretion of the Town Council.—Plans of complete sewerage for Gloucester are wanted: premium, 75*l.*—Tenders are also wanted for surveying and mapping the parish of Battle, Sussex.

PROJECTED WORKS, &c.—Tenders have been called for by advertisement for the erection of a wing to the Littlemore Lunatic Asylum, near Oxford; for maintenance of the permanent way of the Midland Railway between Nottingham and Lincoln, with branch; for erection of four stations on Yorkshire Junction Railway; also for stone paving the carriage and footways in the City for three years.

IMPROVED SASH FOR LUNATIC ASYLUMS, &c.—A model of a sash and frame (arranged by Henry Lane, of Upper Tooting) has been submitted to us, which appears to possess advantages for lunatic asylums, workhouses, and schools. The sashes are proposed to be of iron, in small squares, and each row of squares is made to open outwards from its top, by means of a quadrant acted on by an endless chain and small wheel, turned by a key, so that when open the sash-bars present a guard against patients escaping or children falling, yet offer no obstruction to free ventilation. Amongst its other apparent advantages are these,—that at whatever height it may be fixed (as on staircases) it may be opened and shut by a person standing on the ground, and can be opened and shut only by the right person. Whether sufficient strength can be given to the attachment at the angles to prevent mischievous patients from wrenching out a row of squares we cannot say positively, but the arrangement decidedly deserves examination by some who might be able to assist the inventor in carrying it into practice.

MARTIN'S IMPROVEMENTS IN DRAINING.—Mr. John Martin, the well-known artist, has patented a mode of constructing water, sewerage, and gas pipes, of which a prospectus is now before us. We shall take an early opportunity of inspecting the materials themselves, and in the mean time may say that the patent embraces, at all events, one very important matter, namely, a means of so coupling the pipes as will prevent one pipe settling away from another, and the consequent leakage, as may be the case when they are simply butted against one another without a socket, and yet give the greatest facility for taking out one or more lengths without injury. The mode is exceedingly simple and apparently effective.

WESTERN LITERARY INSTITUTION.—We are glad to find that the Western Literary and Scientific Institution, in Leicester-square, the continuance of which was thought to have ceased, has been re-organized by the late secretary, Mr. Malcolm, and offers the same great advantages to the inhabitants of the locality as heretofore. The library remains, and the rooms have been fitted up very neatly. Irrespective of the weekly lecture, last Monday Bishop's patent "Self-acting Brakes for Railway Carriages" were illustrated; and next Monday Mr. Cantelo's steam "Egg-hatcher" will be described.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC.—An American projector proposes an electric telegraph from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is already carried from the Atlantic to St. Louis, in the valley of the Mississippi, whence the distance to the Pacific is 2,000 miles, and the estimate is that the line could be formed for 300,000 dollars.

IRONFOUNDERS' ESTIMATES.—As a proof that ironfounders are not more particular in the preparation of their estimates than some builders, we publish the result of a competition for a cast-iron bridge, of 35 feet span, proposed to be erected in the city of Chester, from the design of Mr. Baylis, borough engineer:—

J. Williamson, Stockport	2220	10	0
W. Mabon, Ardwick, Manchester	212	11	3
Twyburn and Co., Warrington	210	15	0
W. Glasgow, Manchester	180	0	0
R. Pauling, Manchester	178	10	0
Joland and Longdon, Manchester	170	13	0
Ogle and Son, Preston	150	0	0
Messrs. Johnson, Chester	149	0	0

The lowest tender was accepted.

LANDLORD AND TENANT: BREACH OF CONTRACT.—On the 20th ult. an action was tried at the Sheriff's Court, brought by Miss Robinson, sister of Dr. Robinson, of Brompton, against Mr. Pearce, for breach of contract. The defendant had agreed to take a house in Sloane-street, Chelsea, for the term of ten years, at the yearly rent of 70*l.* Under the covenant, alleged to have been broken, the defendant had bound himself to expend the sum of 200*l.* in repairing the premises; also to insure them to their full value; and that in case he wished to convert the house into a shop, he should obtain the plaintiff's consent and the sanction of Lord Kensington, the ground landlord. The defendant refused to comply with the terms of this covenant, although he had signed it, and he offered to throw up the contract and pay down a quarter's rent as a forfeit for the breach. This was, however, declined by the plaintiff. The defendant, in defence, said he had not been able to perform his part of the contract, but he offered a quarter's rent as compensation, which sum he thought ample remuneration for any loss the plaintiff might have sustained. The jury found for the plaintiff,—damages 40*l.*

GALVANISED IRON.—Mr. R. Hunt, in the course of a lecture on mining, recently delivered at the London Institution, said,—“Considerable attention had been lately paid to the process of galvanising iron,—a discovery which promises to be of the highest utility. Mr. Nadam, of Patricroft, near Manchester, and Mr. Owen, two gentlemen connected with the Government committee on the subject of metals, had lately been trying experiments, the result of which would indicate that, by giving iron a coating of zinc, or by combining zinc with iron in its manufacture, it would be much improved, preserved from oxidising, and rendered less brittle; and that old plates of iron—such, for instance, as had been used for the bottoms of ships—with an admixture of zinc, still possessed its original qualities; and, in fact, iron remelted from such plates was found to be of a better quality than at first. These experiments had, indeed, excited great attention to the important question, whether iron would not be improved by a small portion of zinc. Tinned iron, exposed to the atmosphere, very soon became oxidised; but in iron protected by zinc, although exposed to all weather, there was no change. Indeed, a piece made bright remained so after being placed in water for several months. The zinced iron, which was now used in roofing large buildings—as, for instance, the new Houses of Parliament—had the quality of becoming incrusted with a coat of oxide of zinc, which prevented any further destructive effects from exposure to the atmosphere.”

THE LATE MR. H. LONSDALE ELMES.—We have already alluded to the too-brief career of this gentleman. We find the following in the current number of the *Art-Union Journal*. “A committee of Liverpool gentlemen, in 1836 or 1837, advertised for designs for St. George's Hall, which was then intended to be a building distinct and separate. This advertisement was cut out of the *Times*, and sent or handed to Mr. Elmes by one of his friends, as being worth his notice. Mr. Elmes, then very young, took it over to Mr. Haydon, and asked him if he should send in a design. ‘By all means, my dear boy,’ said Mr. Haydon; ‘they are noble fellows at Liverpool. Send in a design, and mind, let it combine grandeur with simplicity. None of your broken-up and frittered abortions, but something grand.’ ‘Accordingly,’ said Mr. Elmes, ‘I set to work with a burning enthusiasm, and took my first sketch to a friend's house. It was handed round and admired. Amongst the company was a boy about four years and a half old. The sketch was of course shewn to the little fellow, who, looking for a moment very gravely at it, threw it down, saying, ‘very good; very good; indeed; it's worth five hundred pounds.’ This, of course, was laughed at, but hailed as a lucky omen.’ The sketch was finished, and in due time came the welcome news, ‘victorious,’ with the five hundred pounds. Some time after followed prizes for the Asiatic Courts and the Collegiate Institution. St. George's Hall, the great work of the young architect's life, must be finished by others; but it will ever remain his own noble monument. We understand that Mr. Elmes has left his widow